REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously presented in the above-identified application. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-20 remain pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the following remarks. No new matter has been added with this response.

Section 102(b): Furegati.

Claims 1, 10, and 14 and respective dependent claims 2-9, 11-13, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,966,704 ("Furegati"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 10 and 14.

Applicants submit that Furegati fails to disclose each of the elements set forth in claim 1. As an example, consider the following recitation of "merging said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group," as set forth in claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree with the indication in the Official Action that Furegati teaches merging "contextual index elements" (as a first parametric group) and "signal index elements" (as a second parametric group) to produce a "storage segments" (as a merged parametric group). See Official Action, pp. 2-3.

Rather, Furegati teaches that "contextual index elements" are to remain separable and apart from "signal index elements," and thus are not to be merged. This reasoning is corroborated as follows. First, Furegati teaches that "[t]he index elements are classified into a plurality of index classes." See e.g., col. 3, lines 47-48 (emphasis added); The Abstract; see also, Claim 1 of Furegati, third limitation ("[C]lassifying index elements into a plurality of index classes.")(emphasis added). The term "classifying" is defined as "arranging or organizing into categories," where each category is a group of items distinct (i.e., separate) from those items in

other categories. Hence, the term "classifying" cannot be equated with the term "merging." Second, although Furegati does teach that these and other index elements are to be separated, such as described at col. 6, lines 43-47 ("Indexes, for example, can be separated into different classes such as parametric index elements 25, contextual (full-text) index elements 26, and signals 27 (digitized voice as an example)"), Furegati fails to disclose or even hint at merging contextual index elements and signal index elements. Third, Furegati discloses that "storage segments" are portions of a logical storage plane that "can be dealt with as containers each having a certain storage capacity and configuration, also referred to as storage segment structure." See col. 5, lines 8-19; FIGs. 4A ("Storage Segment as Data Container") and 4B. Furegati at most teaches that a storage segment is a data container or structure for separately storing contextual index and signal index subsections. Nowhere does Furegati teach or suggest that these subsections are merged within a storage segment to produce such a storage segment. As such, the storage segment cannot be said to be produced by merging these indexes.

By contrast, the "merged parametric group" of claim 1 of the subject application is produced by merging a "first parametric group" and a "second parametric group." Consequently, Furegati cannot be said to teach or even hint at "merging said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group,'" as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-9 depend from allowable independent claim 1 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection in connection with these claims is respectfully requested.

For at least similar reasons, Applicants also submit that Furegati fails to disclose each of the elements set forth in claims 10 and 14. For example, Furegati neither teaches nor suggests producing a merged parametric group by using a first parametric group and a second parametric as does the claimed invention. Consequently, Furegati cannot be said to disclose "merging said first parametric group with a second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group," and "a second set of instructions to combine said first parametric group said second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group," as set forth in claims 10 and 14, respectively, of the subject application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 14 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 11-13 and 15-20 depend from allowable independent claims 10 and 14, respectively, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection in connection with these claims is respectfully requested.
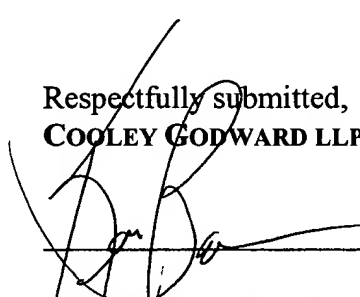
CONCLUSION

In sum, all of the independent claims and their associated dependent claims should now be in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that any of the claims are not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues.

Dated: _26 NOV 03_

Respectfully submitted,
COOLEY GODWARD LLP

Cooley Godward LLP
ATTN: Patent Group
Five Palo Alto Square
3000 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2155
Tel: (650) 843-5000
Fax: (650) 857-0663

By:

Kenneth R. Backus, Jr.
Reg. No. 48,861